

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S DIVISION
SAFETY REASSESSMENT (CS-16D)

POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

The Structured Decision Making, (SDM) safety assessment and reassessment tools are used to evaluate the status of child safety throughout the life of a case. The safety reassessment documents the resolution of safety factors previously identified on the initial safety assessment, the presence of any additional safety concerns, and whether a new/revised safety plan is required.

Which Cases: The safety reassessment is completed on all Investigations/Family Assessments and FCS/FCOOHC case openings where the initial safety assessment resulted in a determination of unsafe or conditional safe.

Who: The assigned worker.

Time Frames: For Investigations and Family Assessments, the safety reassessment is completed:

- Prior to a child(ren) returning to the home following out-of-home placement during the investigation/ family assessment period;
- At the expiration of the initial safety plan.
- On any case whenever new information becomes available that indicates a threat to the safety of the child(ren)

Decisions: The safety reassessment assists the worker in determining the ongoing status of child safety and helps guide the decision to remove or return a child(ren) to/from the home following the initial safety assessment. A child(ren) may be returned to a "safe" or "conditionally safe" home environment. No child(ren) will be returned to a home rated "unsafe."

Additionally, the safety reassessment evaluates the effectiveness of safety interventions that have been implemented, and the need for revisions to the safety plan.

Note: If a child was removed during the investigation period, the safety reassessment is used to assess the household from which the child was removed. The tool should be used to assess whether or not safety factors exist in the household that would prevent the child(ren) from being returned at the present time.

Appropriate Completion:

Section 1: Safety Factor Identification

- Review the initial safety assessment (or the most recent safety reassessment) and, in the “Prior” column, check all safety factors that were present at the time that safety was last assessed.
- Review the safety factors (and definitions from Section IV) and, in the “current” column, check all safety factors that are currently present.

Section 2: Safety Resolution Documentation

For any safety factors that were previously identified but are no longer present, document how the safety issues were resolved.

Section 3: Revised Safety Plan

If the existing safety plan addresses any remaining safety factors that were previously identified that are still present, and no new safety factors have been identified. Check box A and sign and date the current plan with the new expiration date.

- If new safety factor(s) have been identified since safety was last assessed, and/or previous interventions are no longer effective to address previously identified safety factors that are still present, Check box B and complete a new/revised safety plan. Briefly describe the necessary revisions to the safety plan, considering interventions that need to be continued or initiated to protect the child(ren) from immediate danger of serious harm.

Section 4: Safety Decision

Indicate the safety decision by checking “A. Safe,” “B. Conditionally Safe,” or “C. Unsafe.”

- The safety reassessment must be signed by the family and worker at the time of it's completion.

The original white top copy will go to the family and the canary copy will be reviewed and signed by the supervisor and then attached to the CS-16.